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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

M-29517

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27 May 1957

Egyptian Request for Radio Transmitting and Receiving
Station in New York

Dr. Hassan A. Dawood, Counselor, Egyptian Embassy

NE: Wells Stabler

TD (lcc)
NE (lcc)
OLI (2cc)
Amembassy, Cairo (lcc)

I asked Dr. Dawood to call on me this morning to hand him the Department's reply to an Egyptian request for the issuance of a license for a radio transmitting and receiving station for two-way traffic from New York to Cairo.

I told Dr. Dawood that under our present Communications Act of 1934, no foreign government was issued a license to operate a radio transmitting and receiving station. I said that at the present time some consideration was being given to the possibility of amending this law which might make it possible to issue licenses for such stations, but that it was not possible to give him any information as to whether or when the 1934 law might be amended. However, I wanted him to know that there was a possibility, even though remote, that the law might be amended. At the same time I wished to emphasize that under the present law the Department of State was not able to give favorable consideration to the Egyptian request.

Dr. Dawood thanked me for this information and said he thought that since the law was applied to all foreign governments, our reply would be understood. He said he thought that if the United States received requests from many foreign governments for such licenses, we might feel obliged to do something about amending the law, particularly if we wished reciprocity. He said he understood

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Attached:

Copy of Note

NEA:NE:WELLS STABLER:rl

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State Dept. review completed

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The Department of State acknowledges the receipt of the memorandum dated May 15, 1957, from the Embassy of Egypt concerning the possible issuance of a license to a radio transmitting and receiving station for two-way traffic from New York to Cairo.

Under present United States law it is provided in Section 310(A) of the United States Communications Act of 1934 that "the station license required hereby shall not be granted to or held by any alien or the representative of any alien; any foreign government or the representative thereof; ..." In view of the prohibition by law of the issuance of a station license to any foreign government or representative thereof, the Department regrets that it is unable at this time to use its good offices for the establishment of the above-mentioned station. In the event of the future amendment of a law governing the issuance of licenses to radio stations, the Department will be pleased further to advise the Embassy.

Department of State,

Washington, May 24, 1957

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